

REMARKS

Prior to examination of the present application, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1, 6 and 17-21; amended Claims 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8, and added new Claims 22-67. Claims 2-5, 7, 8, and 22-67 are currently pending in the application. A clean copy of all claims currently pending in the application is attached hereto.

Applicant believes that the claims currently presented in this Preliminary Amendment are all allowable over the prior art. The general organization of the claims newly added by Preliminary Amendment is as follows:

Independent Claim 22 is directed to an improved night light having a housing, a bulb, and a gasket around the base of the bulb to seal the socket from the weather. A control circuit is contained within the housing to provide at least two different brightnesses of light output depending upon the position of a switch. This combination is not suggested by any of the prior art references of record in the parent application.

Independent Claim 23, and its dependent Claims 24-27 are directed to an improved night light having at least two separate light sources. A switch and a control circuit are provided for turning on either one or both of the light sources in order to provide different brightness levels output by the night light. Dependent Claims 24-27 are directed to various distinct, specific features of the improved night light.

Claim 28 is directed to an improved night light for use in an outdoor installation. This night light is of a type which includes an outlet box cover adapted to mount over an electrical outlet. Its light source is mounted under a cover plate, and a hinged door allows access to a second electrical outlet.

The outlet box is sealed against the weather, and contains a control circuit to control operation of the bulb. Dependent Claims 29-43 are directed to various additional features of the claimed night light, and are believed to be individually patentably distinct over the prior art. Claim 28 is similar to a claim which was previously allowed in the parent application, and is believed patentably distinct over the prior art for the same reasons the parent claim was allowed.

Independent Claim 44 is directed to an improved night light having a housing, a light source, and a switch. A control circuit is included within the housing to control operation of the light source. The control circuit allows the light source to be turned off, or on in at least two discrete brightness levels. This type of function has not heretofore been included in a night light product, and is patentably distinct over normal variable-brightness lamps and fixtures. Dependent Claims 2-5, 7, 8 and 45-53 depend from independent Claim 44, and are directed to various more specific features of the invention. Each of these independent claims is independently patentable over the prior art cited of record in the parent application.

Independent Claim 54 is directed to an improved night light having a housing, a light source, and means attached to the housing for adjusting the level of light provided by the light source to at least three different brightness levels. This claim has features in common with claims allowed in the parent application, and in particular the designation of at least three different brightness levels. Dependent Claims 55-62 depend from Claim 54, and are directed to various distinct, specific features. All of Claims 54-62 are believed allowable in view of the references cited in the parent application.

Independent Claim 63 is directed to an improved night light having a housing, a light source, and a motion sensor for turning a light source on in response to motion detected near the night light. While motion sensors are known with respect to certain types of lighting products, it has not heretofore been considered to include a motion sensor with a night light product. The resulting claim product has advantages which have not heretofore been recognized, and this claim is patentable over the prior art cited in the parent application. Dependent Claims 64-67 depend from independent Claim 63, and are directed to various specific features related to this invention. All of these claims are allowable over the known prior art.

In summary, all of the newly added and amended claims are believed to be allowable over all of the prior art cited in the parent application. Applicant therefore respectfully requests consideration and allowance of all claims currently pending in this application. Enclosed find a check in the amount of \$318.00 (26 claims in excess of twenty \$234.00; 2 additional independent claims \$84.00).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KCH', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

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Clean Claims currently in the application

1. Cancelled (~~by~~ preliminary amendment)

A' 2. (amended) The improved night light of Claim 44, wherein the control circuit controls the brightness of the light source to have a brightness that varies continuously as a function of switch position when the switch extending portion is moved between the second and third positions.

3. The improved night light of Claim 2, wherein the control circuit is a solid state controller.

4. (amended) The improved night light of Claim 44 wherein the first brightness and second brightness are discrete brightness levels, and wherein the control circuit is not operable to turn the light source on at a brightness intermediate the first brightness and the second brightness.

5. (amended) The improved night light of Claim 44, further comprising a photosensitive device connected to the control circuit, wherein the control circuit is operable in response to ambient light levels detected by the photosensitive device, wherein the light source is turned off in response to an ambient light level greater than a threshold level, and wherein the light source is operated as defined by the switch position when the ambient light level is less than the threshold.

Please cancel Claim 6.

6. Cancelled (~~by~~ preliminary amendment)

A2 7. (amended)The night light of Claim 44, wherein the switch is a rotary switch.

8. (amended)The night light of Claim 44, wherein the switch extending portion is manipulated by a user turning a portion of the housing itself with respect to the remainder of the housing.

9 - 21 Cancelled (by ~~preliminary~~ amendment)

A3 22. An improved night light, comprising:

a housing suitable for connecting to an electrical outlet, wherein the housing includes a socket;

a bulb mounted on the housing, wherein the bulb is mounted on the housing by inserting it into the socket;

a gasket around the base of the bulb to seal the socket from the weather;

a cover plate over the socket and bulb, and having vents therein;

a switch having a portion extending from the housing, the extending portion capable of physical movement by a person between at least first, second, and third positions; and

a control circuit within the housing and connected to the switch for connecting the bulb to electrical power, wherein the control circuit is operable to turn the bulb off when the switch is in the first position, to turn the bulb on at a first brightness when the switch is in the second position, and to turn the bulb on at a second brightness brighter than the first brightness when the switch is in the third position.

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23. An improved night light, comprising:

a housing suitable for connecting to an electrical outlet, such housing having a front and a back, and at least two conductive blades extending from the back in an arrangement suitable for insertion into an electrical outlet, whereby insertion of the blades into an outlet places the housing back into a position immediately adjacent the outlet;

a first and a second light source mounted on the housing;

a switch having a portion extending from the housing, the extending portion capable of physical movement by a person between at least first, second, and third positions; and

a control circuit within the housing and connected to the switch for selectively connecting the first and second light sources to electrical power, wherein the control circuit is operable to turn both light sources off when the switch is in the first position, to turn the first light source on when the switch is in the second position, and to turn both light sources on when the switch is in the third position.

24. The improved night light of Claim 23, wherein the switch is a rotary switch.

25. The improved night light of Claim 23, the switch extending portion is manipulated by a user turning a portion of the housing itself with respect to the remainder of the housing.

26. The improved night light of Claim 23, wherein the first and second light sources comprise bulbs.

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27. The improved night light of Claim 26, wherein the first and second light sources comprise incandescent bulbs.

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28. An improved night light for use in an outdoor installation, comprising:

an outlet box cover adapted to mount over an electrical outlet in an outlet box, the electrical outlet having at least first and second outlets;

a light transmitting cover plate over a portion of the outlet box cover, positioned so as to cover the first outlet when the outlet box cover is installed over the outlet box;

three conductive blades extending from the outlet box cover behind the cover plate for insertion into the first electrical outlet, including two blades for conducting power and a third blade adapted for insertion into a grounding receptacle;

a hinged door connected to the outlet box cover, and positioned to cover a second electrical outlet and protect it from the weather;

a light source mounted under the cover plate;

a control circuit within the outlet box cover, connected to the blades and the bulb, to control operation of the bulb; and

means for sealing the outlet box cover against the weather, whereby the improved night light can be used outdoors.

29. The night light of Claim 28, wherein the control circuit includes a photosensitive device to turn the light source on and off as a function of ambient light levels.

30. The night light of Claim 28, wherein the control circuit includes an on/off switch.

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31. The night light of Claim 28, wherein the cover plate is transparent.
 32. The night light of Claim 28, wherein the means for sealing comprises a gasket around a backside periphery of the outlet box cover.
 33. The night light of Claim 28, wherein the cover plate includes an air vent.
 34. The improved night light of Claim 28, wherein the light source comprises an incandescent bulb.
 35. The night light of Claim 34, wherein the light source comprises at least two incandescent bulbs.
 36. The night light of Claim 28, wherein the control circuit includes a motion detector to turn the night light on in response to movement nearby.
 37. The night light of Claim 28, further comprising:

a ground fault interrupter connected to the control circuit, wherein the night light is protected from the occurrence of an unsafe ground fault condition.
 38. The night light of Claim 28, further comprising:

a sealing member attached to the outlet box cover and to the light source to provide a weatherproof seal for the light source.
 39. The night light of Claim 38, wherein the light source comprises a bulb connected to a socket.

40. The night light of Claim 39, wherein the bulb is an incandescent bulb.

41. The night light of Claim 39, wherein the sealing member comprises a gasket around a base of the bulb.

42. The night light of Claim 28, wherein the control circuit is operable to turn the light source off when the switch is set to a first position, to turn the light source on at a first brightness when the switch is set to a second position, and to turn the light source on at a second brightness brighter than the first brightness when the switch is set to a third position.

43. The night light of Claim 42, wherein the control circuit is operable to turn the light source on at a third brightness level brighter than the second brightness level when the switch is set to a fourth position.

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44. An improved night light, comprising:

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a housing suitable for connecting to an electrical outlet, such housing having a front and a back, and at least two conductive blades extending from the back in an arrangement suitable for insertion into an electrical outlet, whereby insertion of the blades into an outlet places the housing back into a position immediately adjacent the outlet;

a light source mounted on the housing;

a switch mounted to the housing and capable of manipulation by a person, the switch settable to at least three positions; and

a control circuit within the housing, the control circuit connected to the switch and to the light source, wherein the control circuit is operable to turn the light source off when the switch is set to a first position, to turn the light source on at a first brightness when the switch is set to a second position, and to turn the light source on at a second brightness brighter than the first brightness when the switch is set to a third position.

45. The night light of Claim 44, wherein the control circuit is operable to turn the light source on at a third brightness level brighter than the second brightness level when the switch is set to a fourth position.

46. The night light of Claim 45, wherein the light source comprises an incandescent bulb.

47. The night light of Claim 44, wherein the light source comprises an incandescent bulb.

48. The night light of Claim 44, further comprising:

a motion sensor connected to the control circuit, wherein the motion sensor operates with the control circuit to turn the light source on when motion is sensed near the night light.

49. The night light of Claim 44, further comprising:

a photo sensor connected to the control circuit, wherein the photo sensor operates with the control circuit to turn the light source on when ambient light levels fall below a threshold level.

50. The night light of Claim 44, wherein the switch comprises a mechanical switch.

51. The night light of Claim 44, wherein the light source comprises at least two separately emitting sources.

52. The night light of Claim 51, wherein the light source comprises at least two light emitting bulbs.

53. The night light of Claim 52, wherein the light emitting bulbs comprise incandescent bulbs.

54. An improved night light, comprising:

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a housing suitable for connecting to an electrical outlet, such housing having a front and a back, and at least two conductive blades extending from the back in an arrangement suitable for insertion into an electrical outlet, whereby insertion of the blades into an outlet places the housing back into a position immediately adjacent the outlet;

a light source mounted on the housing, the light source capable of providing light at a predetermined brightness; and

means attached to the housing for adjusting the level of light provided by the light source to at least three different brightness levels.

55. The night light of Claim 54, wherein the adjusting means comprises an electrical control circuit for controlling the amount of current provided to the light source.

56. The night light of Claim 54, further comprising:

a motion sensor connected to the light source, wherein the motion sensor operates with the control circuit to turn the light source on when motion is sensed near the night light.

57. The night light of Claim 54, further comprising:

a photo sensor connected to the light source, wherein the photo sensor operates with the control circuit to turn the light source on when ambient light levels fall below a threshold level.

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58. The night light of Claim 54, wherein the control circuit includes a switch mounted on the housing, the switch having a plurality of positions, each switch position corresponding to a different amount of current provided to the light source.

59. The night light of Claim 54, wherein the light source comprises a bulb.

60. The night light of Claim 59, wherein the bulb is an incandescent bulb.

61. The night light of Claim 54, wherein the adjusting means controls the brightness of provided light through a continuous range of brightness levels.

62. The night light of Claim 54, wherein the adjusting means controls the brightness of provided light to be any of a plurality of discrete brightness levels.